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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PHUM](#) [PE](#)  
SUBJECT: CABINET VOTE COULD SPLIT HUMALA COALITION

Classified By: A/POL David C. Brooks, for Reasons 1.4 (c,d)

11. (C) Summary: Supporters of anti-system presidential candidate Ollanta Humala are divided over whether to endorse President Garcia's new cabinet on Thursday, August 24. Humala has said his party would vote against the Garcia Cabinet, but UPP congressional representatives including spokesman Alvaro Gutierrez have said they had not yet decided how to vote. The appearance of an early rift illustrates how Humala's authoritarian, top-down leadership style may not work in the post-electoral environment. End Summary.

12. (U) The Union por el Peru (UPP) and Peruvian Nationalist Party (PNP) coalition that supported former presidential candidate Ollanta Humala during Peru's April and June elections is divided over whether to endorse President Garcia's new cabinet on Thursday, August 24. Humala spokesman Carlos Tapia indicated that PNP members would vote against the Garcia cabinet and press reports have said that Humala has so instructed PNP Congress representatives. In contrast, PNP Congressman Alvaro Gutierrez and UPP Congress members are taking a wait and see attitude, rather than peremptorily rejecting the Garcia Cabinet. Gutierrez told the Ambassador on 8/21 that voting against Garcia's cabinet appointments without even considering their merits would be irresponsible.

13. (U) The appearance of an early rift points to deeper divisions within Humala's fractious congressional coalition. Gutierrez distanced himself from Humala two weeks ago, appearing with President Garcia on August 11 to endorse an APRA proposal to require that 20% of all city council representatives be reserved for persons 29 or younger. Later, as new revelations broke about Humala's possible involvement in human rights violations in the early 90s, Gutierrez publicly declared that he would not "put his hand in the fire" for the former candidate.

14. (U) Gutierrez' actions sparked criticism from Humala's personal spokesman, Carlos Tapia, who announced that Gutierrez had been relieved of his responsibilities last week. UPP President Aldo Estrada contradicted this, telling the press August 19 that Gutierrez would remain UPP-PNP spokesperson until the entire group took a decision on the matter. Estrada also indicated that some UPP-PNP coalition representatives might endorse the Garcia cabinet. On the eve of the congressional vote of confidence, both the UPP and the PNP are internally divided. PNP members, with the likely exception of Gutierrez, will probably vote against the cabinet. UPP members are free to vote their own conscience, and will likely endorse President Garcia's choice of ministers.

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15. (C) This early friction underscores deeper fissures in Humala's movement and highlights his likely inability to contain them. While Humala was able personally to "impose order" on his coalition during the campaign, the heavy-handed approach appears not to be working in the post-election environment. In this sense, Humala's lack of political and congressional experience is likely to undermine his ability to operate effectively as an opposition leader. In addition, we suspect that pro-Humala Congress representatives like Gutierrez do not want to burn their bridges with the Garcia administration, since it is now Garcia, and not Humala, who can offer them concrete benefits for the regions they represent.

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